



PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, WEEK 2

JANUARY 19, 2015 | DAY 8 OF THE 105-DAY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Puget Sound Partnership's Legislative Update highlights issues related to our region's work to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound.

LEGISLATORS ORIENT TO COMMITTEES, ISSUES

The first week of the 64th Legislature is winding down. Many of this past week's legislative activities focused on orienting new committee members to the state agencies, budget requests, and issues that lie ahead as the session progresses. Legislators were also busy introducing bills, which committees begin taking up in this coming week.

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEK 2

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 3:30 p.m., the House Capital Budget Committee will conduct a public hearing for Governor Inslee's proposed 2015-17 capital budget. Also at 3:30, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Governor's revenue proposals. Both hearings will be broadcast over public television station TVW (www.tvw.org).

On Thursday, Jan. 22, at 8 a.m., the House Environment Committee will receive an update from the Marine Resources Advisory Council on ocean acidification. Also at 8 a.m., the Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development Committee will conduct a work session about the current and predicted availability of water for agriculture.

On Thursday, Jan. 22, at 1:30 p.m., the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, & Telecommunications will conduct a public hearing on SB 5056, concerning the use of chemical action plans for recommendation of safer chemicals, and a work session on SB 5057, concerning the safe transport of hazardous materials.

For the most current information about legislative committee activities, including meeting agendas, times and locations, go to www.leg.wa.gov. Many committee meetings are broadcast live on the State Capitol's public service television station, TVW. For a schedule, go to www.tvw.org.

2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- The 2015 Legislative Session is scheduled from Jan. 12 to April 26, 2015.
- Puget Sound Legislative Updates are posted at: http://www.psp.wa.gov/legislative_updates.php
- For up-to-date legislative information, visit: www.leg.wa.gov
- Watch or listen to hearings and work sessions on: www.tvw.org
- Connect with PSP for breaking news and other events affecting Puget Sound on Twitter @PSPPartnership and Facebook: www.facebook.com/PugetSoundPartnership

Communication & Coordination:

If you are planning to meet with legislators or would like assistance with state legislative issues regarding Puget Sound priorities, please contact:

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GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET SUPPORTS PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

The **Governor's Operating Budget Request**, introduced in the House as [HB 1106](#) and in the Senate as [SB 5077](#), includes funding for two of the Partnership's [top three legislative priorities](#):

- **Assessing recovery for effective investments** – Just over \$1 million and a full-time staff position to augment the Partnership's program to evaluate the effectiveness of investments in recovery and to fill gaps in data for the [Puget Sound Vital Signs](#). The Vital Signs are a set of 21 indicators that help track the status of ecosystem conditions in Puget Sound. Several of these indicators are currently unmonitored, or lack sufficient monitoring, to provide information useful for decision making. This appropriation would improve the amount and usability of data for six Vital Sign indicators: birds, estuaries, Pacific herring, land use and cover, shoreline armoring, and quality of life. The funding would also support coordination of data collection, monitoring and analyses to assess the effectiveness of shellfish, stormwater and habitat recovery actions.
- **Revising the Salmon Recovery Plan** –\$600,000 (through the [Aquatics Lands Enhancement Account](#)) to continue the Partnership's work with Puget Sound watershed groups to develop monitoring and adaptive management plans and update Chinook recovery plans. One-time funding would be provided to begin updating Chinook salmon recovery plans that were developed in 2005, to fill key information gaps, complete prioritized monitoring plans and implement adaptive management processes. The Governor's Operating Budget request also includes \$800,000 for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW's) **Puget Sound steelhead recovery** program and \$1.5 million for WDFW to track **Puget Sound fish health**.

The **Governor's Capital Budget request**, introduced in the House as [HB 1115](#) and in the Senate as [SB 5097](#), supports one of the Partnership's key program funding priorities:

- **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) fund** (by request of the Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO)) – \$50 million to provide grants for projects that protect or restore salmon habitat in Puget Sound, such as river delta and floodplain restoration, removal of fish passage barriers, and shoreline protection projects. Of the appropriation, \$30 million would be allocated among all Puget Sound watersheds to implement projects included in local watershed recovery plans. The remaining \$20 million would be used to fund more complex and regionally significant, ready-to-proceed restoration projects prioritized by the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council based on salmon recovery impact, progress on the 2020 Action Agenda, and project readiness. The projects funded through PSAR are part of the Partnership's strategic initiative to protect and restore habitat.

The Governor's Capital Budget request also supports other salmon recovery efforts:

- \$100 million (by request of the RCO) for the **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** to provide grants for projects that protect or restore salmon habitat and for other salmon recovery programs.
- \$10 million (through WDFW by request of the RCO) for the **Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP)** to provide grants for projects that protect and restore the Puget Sound near-shore ecosystem through science-based salmon restoration and protection projects, learning and monitoring projects, and technical assistance. This is request for the RCO.
- \$25 million (by request of the Department of Ecology) for the **"Floodplains by Design"** program to provide grants to tribes, local governments, state agencies and non-governmental organizations for projects that restore natural conditions in floodplains to restore habitat and prevent flooding.

LOOKING FORWARD—STORMWATER MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION ANTICIPATED

In preparation for the legislative session, the Partnership evaluated nearly 100 state agency budget requests related to Puget Sound recovery and ranked them according to their importance in achieving the goals and objectives of the Puget Sound Action Agenda. The highest ranked of these was the Department of Ecology's Capital Budget request for \$74 million (\$44.4 million for Puget Sound) to provide grants for local governments to undertake stormwater retrofit projects to address polluted stormwater. In association with this funding need, the House and Senate are expected to soon deliberate a comprehensive water package (nicknamed "Big Water") that would provide up to \$300 million to be divided equally to address stormwater management, flood control and floodplain management, and water supply. We will follow development of this package closely.

COMMITTEES CONSIDER LEGISLATION IMPORTANT TO PUGET SOUND RECOVERY

The Partnership is tracking the following bills that could have an impact on the health and recovery of Puget Sound. For the most up-to-date status of the bills, check the legislative information website, www.leg.wa.gov.

- **HB 1158 – Granting local governments the authority to make challenges related to growth management planning subject to direct review in superior court.** Sponsored by Rep. Pike, with 11 other Representatives as co-sponsors; referred to the House Committee on Local Government.
- **HB 1174 – Concerning flame retardants.** Sponsored by Rep. Van De Wege, with 22 other Representatives signed on as co-sponsors; referred to the House Committee on the Environment.
- **SB 5044 – Concerning mitigation measures for shoreline development.** Sponsored by Sen. Brown with Sens. Ericksen and Hewitt as co-sponsors; referred to Senate Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications.
- **SB 5056 – Concerning the use of chemical action plans for recommendations of safer chemicals.** Sponsored by Sen. Ericksen, with Sen. Chase as co-sponsor; referred to the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications.
- **SB 5057 – Concerning the safe transport of hazardous materials.** Sponsored by Sen. Ericksen; referred to the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications.
- **SB 5061 – Limiting the authority of growth management hearings boards to hear petitions challenging the regulation of permit exempt wells.** Sponsored by Sen. Honeyford, with Sens. Schoesler, Warnick, and Ericksen as co-sponsors; referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water & Rural Economic Development.
- **SB 5087 – Concerning oil transportation safety.** By request of Governor Inslee, sponsored by Sen. Rolfes, with 19 other Senators as co-sponsors; referred to the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, & Telecommunications.
- **SB 5166 – Concerning management of forage fish resources.** Sponsored by Sen. Rolfes, with Sens. Ranker and Hasegawa as co-sponsors; referred to Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

Next week, bills addressing the following issues will likely be introduced at the Governor's request:

- Carbon pollution reduction
- Manure application program
- Toxics reduction
- Financing for local on-site septic management programs